

All Different, All Equal

**Exeter
Respect**

THE CITY'S ANNUAL
CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

Exeter Respect cic

ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL

20th Anniversary

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF EXETER RESPECT 2017
FOR 2018'S FESTIVAL**

All Different, All Equal

Exeter Respect

EXETER RESPECT CIC

"ALL DIFFERENT ALL EQUAL"

EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2017

CELEBRATION OF 20TH YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

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I. INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Exeter Respect Festival was inspired by the 1996 Respect Festival that was a free anti-racism music festival in London, organised by the Trades Union Congress (TUC). While primarily perceived as a free music festival, it also hosted trade unions, voluntary organisations, groups, charities and community organisations campaigning for diversity and equality and promoting the anti-racism movement that was led by the Racial Equality Councils. Exeter Respect Festival 1997 was led by the TUC and Devon and Exeter Racial Equality Council, (DEREC). They all had one goal in common; to bring communities in Exeter together to say no to racism and yes to multi-cultural understanding and social inclusion, under the slogan of the Council of Europe, *"All different- All Equal"*. This slogan became part of the Exeter Respect logo. Since the 1950s, the Council of Europe have encouraged all organisations who are campaigning against racism and prejudice to adopt this slogan and use it.

Between 2005 and 2013 Exeter Respect Festival was organised by an independent unincorporated group of individuals without a clear legal structure. In 2009 Exeter Respect Festival was moved from Exeter Phoenix, its previous main venue, to Belmont Park and was combined with the Exeter City Council Play Day. In 2010 Exeter Respect Festival was extended to a 2 day event in Belmont Park. The membership committee of the Cooperative Society sponsored the festival. They became the platinum sponsor for 3 years. Alongside Exeter City Council, there were many other sponsors and stall holders that helped sustain the festival, yet its legal structure was still unclear.

Exeter Respect 2013 was the most challenging time in the history of Exeter Respect Festival. The 3 years sponsorship from the Cooperative Membership Committee had finished. One member of the core organising committee left, due to the workload of his own business. Another member of the committee was also struggling to stay. After the Festival he decided that 2013 was to be his last year. This led to further strong discussion about the future of Exeter Respect Festival - its structure, and its sustainability. After the festival in 2013 the committee, after discussion with a legal team and business advisor, reached the decision to opt for a model of non-profit social enterprise in the form of a Community Interest Company (CIC). On 9 October 2013 Exeter Respect became Exeter Respect CIC with a legally structured board, with the rights to organise Exeter Respect Festival with their main responsibility being to sustain and develop it.



PAUL BULL



MARTIN HODGE

On behalf of the board of Exeter Respect CIC and the organising committee of Exeter Respect Festival 2017 we would like to congratulate all our communities for their understanding of cultural diversity. This year's festival was dedicated to the memory of the victims and families affected by the attacks earlier in the year in Manchester and London. Moreover, it was also dedicated to the memory of Paul Bull Exeter Respect Artist Liaison and to Martin Hodge from Phonic FM. A tribute to them, celebrating their life for their devotion to *"All Different - All Equal"*

Exeter Respect Festival is unique, its message has never changed since it was started. It is the biggest annual celebration of diversity, equality and human rights in Exeter. Every year, Exeter Respect Festival has created a large cultural community hub. It has provided a place for people to network, to empower and connect with each other, by browsing through the stalls, by attending the different workshops, and by listening to the words of many organisations who wished to campaign and share their services with the public. The Festival has become a platform for artists to share their creativity with voices of celebration from every corner, a melting pot of all nationalities and ethnicities coming together to say "no" to all forms of prejudice, discrimination and racism.

Dr Suaad George
Managing Director
EXETER RESPECT CIC
"ALL DIFFERENT ALL EQUAL"



2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report contains a review of every aspect of Exeter Respect Festival 2017, to share with the public, sponsors, stall holders and supporters, to comment, and to suggest recommendations for improvement.

3. EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2017 OVERVIEW: ELEMENT-BY-ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Exeter Respect Festival 2017 took place on Saturday 3th June and Sunday 4th June 2017 in Belmont Park in the City of Exeter. It was a free event lasting from noon until 7pm on Saturday and 11am until 6pm on Sunday. Exeter Respect Festival 2017 was an alcohol-free festival and provided a great safe space in which communities came together to celebrate and share their cultures. We were saddened by the news from Manchester on the Saturday and decided to dedicate the festival to the memory and victims of those affected in Manchester after the terrorist attack. We used the art wall for people to express their sadness and write messages of peace. Unfortunately, on Sunday there was another attack, and jointly the wall was flooded with messages to London as much as to Manchester.



3.1 DIVERSITY STAGE

The Diversity Stage hosted many great acts. On Saturday of particular note were: Locked Horns, Emily Howard and the Dilly Boys, Blu funk All Stars, Lola and Revelation Roots. On Sunday the highlights were Paul Kautchou and The Alex Hart Band. Paul Kautchou and Carole Crawford were very good comperes and the PA was great. Young people took on the role of stage managers, well done to them for their efforts and for keeping all acts mainly on schedule. We added the Big Noise Chorus this year and it was great to see so many people on stage. Overall, the live music programme for the Diversity Stage went down extremely well with audiences and many people danced and cheered with appreciation. Genres of music included: African music and dance from India; reggae; dub; ska; indie pop; rock; folk; hip hop. Regardless of the weather on Sunday morning the Exeter Love Yoga Salutation, tried to carry on under the wet weather. No one band was promoted as a headliner, as we aim to promote the idea that all the artists are equally as important and excellent in their own way. This is totally in fitting with the central message of Exeter Respect - "All Different, All Equal".



RECOMMENDATION FOR 2018

- To allow feature artists who had performed the previous year and/or a number of times over previous years (one exception was made in the interests of diversity)
- To prioritise artists based in Devon - and particularly Exeter
- To prioritise artists performing original material; in balance it might be fair to allow cover bands as well.
- To increase the generic diversity of the music on offer
- To allow more opportunities for young people to perform
- To attempt to achieve a fair balance of performers across ethnic minorities; gender; age; and musical genre.

In order to further demonstrate this belief in practice, we once again had an equal expenses payment policy, where every individual musician was paid the same amount (£30). The only exception to this was for bands with five members or more, whose expenses fee was capped at £150 due to budgetary limitations.

On the whole, the live music programmed on the Diversity Stage went down extremely well with audiences, and many people danced and cheered with appreciation.

3.2 INSPIRE STAGE

This open-air stage was organised by Exeter College from the Music Academy lead by Emma Watson. Some of the acts were performed by Exeter College students. This experience of education in practice was of enormous benefit to the students, allowing them the opportunity to have first-hand experience on how to perform as well as being assessed on the ground for their practical test. The Inspire Stage once again featured a very diverse programme of carefully chosen live music over the two days. A programming team of six people listened to music from all the bands and individual musicians who had applied to perform, and final decisions were made using a "best fit" approach.

3.3 COMMUNITY STAGE

The Community Stage was once again hosted a variety of performances by talented community groups, including several large choirs from different cultures; dance groups performing everything from flamenco to belly dancing; a theatrical production and live music featuring young disabled adults and children; a variety of choirs from Wren Music Project; a community world music bands combined the east and the west. Performances in this marquee were very well attended, and the community spirit and atmosphere was tangible and vibrant. The stage was fully accessible for wheelchair users, and large enough for dance groups and sizable choirs to perform comfortably.

The programme was kicked off on Saturday with live music from Soundwaves, who also led the opening procession through Newtown along with Exeter Malayalee Association and St. Matthews Pre-School. .

3.4 STEPHEN LAWRENCE STAGE

Saturday's activities were combined Exeter Respect Festival's Talks and music. Activities were hosted by Exeter Respect Young Ambassador Jessica Bryne, until 5:30pm then the stage was dedicated to the memory of our Artist Liaison Mr Paul Bull who passed away before the Festival.

On Sunday once again, the stage was combined music and talks. At 5pm the stage was an open mic dedicated to the memory of our presenter at FM Phonic Martin Hodge.

3.5 WIDSITH & DEOR CABARET TIPI

Exeter Respect Festival - Report from the Widsith & Deor Stage

This was our seventh year hosting the Widsith & Deor Stage, and as ever, we were delighted with its success. We had a terrific line up and lots of positive feedback and good audiences.

Our line up included top storytellers Raventales, Clive Pig the Storyfella and Dave Oliver of Rattlebox Theatre, well known poets including the very popular Louisa Adjoa Parker and Jackie Juno, and wonderful music from the likes of Kat Black, Nicole Wakeling and Ulrika Igraine. Our workshops this year included Acro-yoga, an excellent participatory display where people find out they can do things they never thought possible!

Kenson Low's Dinosaur Rider walkabout was another highlight, with people following him taking video and photos, and our own shows and displays of masks and carnival heads were very well received.

The only issue was the weather, which of course was beyond anyone's control, but we switched smoothly from outdoors to inside the Tipi venue whenever the rain got just too heavy, and rain very firmly did not stop play!

As ever, the bringing together of performers and community from all walks of life and all over the globe was inspiring, friendly, and made for a lovely atmosphere of goodwill and connectivity.

As a showcase to bring people together in a spirit of unity (perhaps more important in the current climate than ever before), the Stage worked perfectly, and in harmony with the whole ethos of the Festival. All the feedback which we gained and heard was of people having had a wonderful time, enjoying themselves, the acts, the food and the terrific festival feeling.

We are proud to be part of the Exeter Respect Festival 2017, and view it as an essential part of the Exeter Arts & Community events calendar and one that needs to be cherished in these difficult times



3.6 COMMUNITY YOGA

The 108 Sun Salutation is a very popular annual event at Exeter Respect, which attracts experienced yoga enthusiasts and beginners alike. The salutations - led by Fran Allen (DerekTheDog Yoga Centre) - once again took place on Sunday morning warm-up particularly with drizzling rain. Wet weather forced them to move to shelter at the melody of community stage and finish their salutation in style.

3.7 FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AREA

A full list of activities were delivered by different stall holders, engaging with families and their children. The bouncy castle once again was looked after by the Summer Adventures Society from the University of Exeter Student Guild. Exeter City Football Trust One Game One Community Group alongside the Clifton Hill Centre, the Police with their cadets and the Fire Services provided a leisure activity, mainly information about their services in the community. The Children Centres, RAMM, St Matthews pre-school, Balloons and Exeter Scrap Store all provided interactive workshops to collectively design Exeter Respect Festival banners. Many others also delivered activities involving children and their families. Exeter Community Initiatives provided information about their project and their cinema was very popular with the children and their families, which featured a short film which was produced and directed by their volunteers.

3.8 MARKET STALLS

Local small businesses and charities sold Fair Traded goods from around the world, many supporting a range of international good causes. From Devonian, Asian and Indian cuisine, to Devon jewellery, to world clothing; the park's central avenue of trees and the play area became an international market, with people browsing and shopping. We encourage local traders to participate and promote their goods; this element needs to be carefully managed in order to create a balance between commercial traders and charitable causes.

3.9 COMMUNITIES, CAMPAIGN & DISPLAY

More communities from different diverse backgrounds rushed to book a space this year, and fitting everyone in was a challenge. As usual Exeter Respect Festival reserved the right to hold collections on the entrances, but many groups also fundraised for their good causes. Exeter Respect Festival 2017 was marking the solidarity between people, and the range of displays and activities by campaigners made people move more around the park.

The layout of the site was organised according to the causes, traders and caterers on one group, women's groups, faith and other charities were in one group, in this way we created a specialised area for the visitors to browse, shop, socialise, and retrieve information.

3.10 HEALING ZONE

The quiet Sensory Garden part of Belmont Park became the Exeter Respect Festival Healing Zone. This year, a few stall holders at this area mentioned that the Health Zone being out of sight gave them more privacy; healing organisations generally found it better to be in a quiet area to deliver their activities effectively. The overall feedback from the stall holders was that it was an excellent location for the purpose of their activities and they prefer that the area should be called Healing Zone, rather than Wellbeing Zone, in fact we did change its name. The feedback from the visitors indicated that people do visit this area and enjoy being treated by different practitioners.

3.11 OTHER PERFORMANCES & ACTIVITIES

Belmont Park was transformed into an amazing festival site and the event featured a number of strolling performances from the Kurdish community, Philippines community and the Bulgarian Association, amongst many others. The finale was performed by the Karina Bollywood School and the Exeter Malayalee Associations. Regarding the situation of the attacks in Manchester and London, this created an atmosphere of sadness as well as a celebratory moment for people as one community to apply their respect for the victims to be united at Exeter Respect Festival to say no to all forms of prejudice and violence, by signing the art wall at the festival. Regardless of the heavy rain on Sunday, everywhere you turned you could see people moving around enjoying themselves and confronted with someone performing something. Not having alcohol on site made the site more inclusive and more accessible to an organisation that runs specific projects related to rehabilitation from alcohol.



3.12 DECORATION

Belmont Park was transformed into a colourful and vibrant festival site. The wall at Belmont Park was transformed with a vivid image our Artist Liaison Paul Bull and Martin Hodge our FM Phonic Exeter Respect Show and also featured messages for those affected in Manchester and London, allowing people to express their feeling by writing messages and signing the wall. Accordingly, the artist Chloe Pooley left her touch on the wall.

4. VOLUNTEERING

The volunteers are the backbone of Exeter Respect Festival and it wouldn't be possible to run the festival without the generosity of many people from all different backgrounds coming together to help and support the Festival, before, during and after the event. For many years people have been coming from all parts of Exeter, Devon and Cornwall to volunteer and be part of this amazing event. The Exeter Philippines Community Choir in particular organised and lead volunteers to be at the festival site for the whole two days. Volunteers have managed to perform under the heavy rain and showed dedication and commitment. One of our precious volunteers Tomas who has left for good to move to Poland, said

"Exeter Respect Festival 2017 it will be my last festival, I am leaving for good, is time for me to leave Exeter and go back to my country, but Exeter Respect Festival will stay in my heart. I am taking the Festival memories with me. I hope one day I will be able to come back and volunteer. I did volunteer every weekend in giving out leaflets, running the coffee morning at St. Stephen's Church at the High Street and I enjoyed talking to people, so many lovely people around Exeter. Exeter Respect Festival gave me life, gave me to feel I am belong to Exeter. It's a nice feeling I am taking with me; thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to volunteer, to feel included, and enjoy the company of everyone".

- Tomas at Bedford Square Exeter



5. SOCIAL MEDIA & PROMOTION

This year we printed an A5 brochure, listing events and activities, which was given out at the festival. We also gave out A6 flyers around the city. We also used our website and other social media tools including Facebook and Twitter, which were kept live and up to date both before and during the festival by a brilliant team of volunteers. Leading up to the main event Exeter Respect Festival 2017 was at the heart of our city centre. Also, we had our Community Variety Show launch event at the Barnfield Theatre, that, with in kind support, had provided a free venue and hosted our launch. Our publicity was very well received at the Forum at the University of Exeter. Our leafleting in the high street was very appreciated by the people who were eager to take our flyers and excited that the festival was, once again, happening. The festival has become the annual feast for many families who look forward to it every year. Our t-shirts become so popular that we need to print more.

6. FEEDBACK & OVERALL EVALUATION OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2017

2017 was Exeter Respect Festival's fourth year as an alcohol-free festival. This decision was taken after long negotiations with the police and Exeter City Council. We reviewed the feedback from the police and the Exeter City Council Health and Safety group, and the public who advised the organising committee, and decided to run 2017 festival alcohol free. The feedback was excellent, and people responded to our call not to bring alcohol to the festival. We were impressed by our audience and visitors who helped us to respect our wishes. Families, children and young people were able to move everywhere in the park without feeling uncomfortable or intimidated. As a result, the event was more inclusive, and the alcohol-free policy enabled everyone to move around, to sing, to dance and eat, sit, stand and move freely everywhere.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Exeter Respect Festival 2017 was committed to the ethos to look after the environment and used the bio-diesel rather than the red one. No environmental damage was created and there were no complaints from the neighbourhood. Everyone who came through the gate had the experience of 'All Different, All Equal'. This is what Exeter Respect Festival stands for - bringing people together every year. Only together can we build a society free from prejudices. Exeter Respect Festival is the platform for all people regardless of their background, colour, creed or ethnicities, to come together to celebrate diversity in the heart of Exeter.

8. SUPPORT IN-KIND AND TRADING

Exeter City Council was the main sponsor for Exeter Respect Festival 2017. It was a real challenge to budget for Exeter Respect Festival 2017 as due to the economic climate that we live in, many organisations have cut back on their financial support. Regardless of our policy of no alcohol at the festival we were more creative in managing our budget. Devon Contract Waste kindly offered to collect the waste without any fee. More organisations such as Exeter College, have provided the PA for the Inspire stage. Widsith & Deor Cabaret Tipi over the past seven years have managed the line up of their stage at the festival and run workshops and activities adding a colourful rainbow to the festival. Barnfield Theatre have for 3 years offered their space to launch the festival and offered their support to promote the festival. Clifton Hill Centre, Newtown Primary school, Football in the Community Trust offered their space to be used as a car park. Newtown Association supported the festival by offering the space at nominal fee. Likewise the Scrap Store every year offer the supply of electricity if it's needed for the festival. Exeter Community Initiatives and St. Sidwell's Centre were able to contribute financially in addition to providing free venues for meetings. The 2017 Festival had a very hard journey financially, but in the end the budget was healthy and we have managed to break even.

EXETER RESPECT 2017 RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSORS



FRIENDS OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL



IN-KIND SPONSORSHIP OR CONTRA DEAL



Keeping in touch with Exeter Respect Community Interest Company - CIC No. 08725612

Email

info@exeter-respect.org • programming@exeter-respect.org
volunteers@exeter-respect.org • suaad@exeter-respect.org
stalls@exeter-respect.org

Website

www.exeter-respect.org • www.facebook.com/Exeter:respect

Exeter Respect Festival branding designed
by Nigel Pennington, Evolve Promotion